mental degradation of the area;

(b) what are the steps taken by Government to prevent such a crime and maintain the environmental position of the area; and

(c) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be placed in the table of the house.

Oil slick in Bombay High

3854. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Environment had threatened the ONGC and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the recent oil leak in Bombay High due to non-compliance of environmental stipulations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the action taken by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, directions were issued to Oil and Naturl Gas Commission (ONGC) on 26th May, 1993 by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board for taking effective steps immediately to remove oil and clear oil patches and not to discharge any poisonous, noxious or polluting matter into sea waters. In addition, a notice seeking clarifications was given to ONGC by this Ministry regarding the status of compliance of the condition stipulated while giving environmental clearance to various off-shore projects in Bombay High Region.

The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas also advised ONGC to undertake comprehensive review of all its systems and procedures including safety of its installations and engage a competent external agency for technical audit of the off-shore pipeline which broadly covers health check of all trunk pipelines; replacement of pipelines, if required; and review of maintenance procedures, existing safety systems, emergency preparedness procedures and methods.

Ganga Action Plan

3855. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) what progress has so far been made in the implementation of the Ganga Action Plan; indicating the details of the depollution measures taken and their cleansing effect on Ganga Water; and

(b) whether the implementation of Plan has helped in resource generation by way of reclaiming the land and creation of tourist spots and hotels etc. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Under the Ganga Action Plan for the pollution abatement of river Ganga, a total of 261 schemes involving interception and diversion of domestic waste water, sewage treatment, low cost sanitation, setting up of electric/improved wood crematoria and river front facilities have been taken up in 25 Class-I towns of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. So far, 208 schemes have been completed, the remaining are at various stages of implementation.

With the completion of 208 schemes, 543 million litres per day (mld) of waste water is being intercepted and diverted and a capacity to treat 297 mld of waste water has been created. The water quality in terms of Dissolved Oxygen (DO) at all the 27 monitoring stations under Ganga Action Plan have shown discernible improvement and has consistently been above the permissible limits. In respect of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), the levels meet the desired standards at all these monitoring stations except at Kanpur and sometimes at Varanasi (bank side) where the trend has been found to be erratic.

(b) Land reclamation and creation of tourist spots and hotels etc. have not been envisaged in the Action Plan.

Pollution of Taj Mahal

3856. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Taj Mahal wears a Cloak of fine grey dust with Oxides of Sulphur eating away the mausoleums marble domes, if so, the details thereof;

(b) what are the causes of pollutants that shroud the Taj Mahal, the details thereof; and

(c) what setps Government have taken to protect the Taj Mahal from such pollutants, the details thereof ?